



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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VITAL STATISTICS

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Statistics of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1959, published on the first page of this Bulletin are followed by more detailed tables showing the registration of births, the number of marriages solemnized and deaths occurring during each of the last five years. Some figures for 1959 are subject to slight revision.

Registrations during 1959	Number	Rate
Births	20,372	22.12
Marriages	6,614	7.18
Deaths - Total	7,943	8.62
- Infant (Children of less than 1 year)	422	20.66
		Number
Adoptions		602
Legitimations		51
Still-births (These are not included in births or deaths)		281

Birth, marriage and total death rates are calculated per 1,000 of mean population, and the infant death rate per 1,000 of live births.

Birth, Marriage and Death Rates

These rates are calculated on the number of registrations, and show somewhat different fluctuations than would those calculated on the number of occurrences, particularly in the case of Infant Death Rates.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH RATES

Period	Average annual rate of -			
	Births (a)	Marriages (a)	Deaths (a)	Infant Deaths (a)
1900-04	25.05	6.59	10.99	91.95
1905-09	25.19	7.93	10.22	68.83
1910-14	27.98	9.38	10.30	67.82
1915-19	25.51	7.94	10.67	61.85
1920-24	23.43	8.55	9.68	58.45
1925-29	20.16	7.54	8.98	46.54
1930-34	15.54	6.33	8.65	38.05
1935-39	15.32	8.99	9.20	32.85
1940-44	19.30	11.25	10.25	34.57
1945-49	24.02	9.73	9.80	27.35
1950-54	23.62	8.44	9.31	22.69
1955-59	22.34	7.39	8.80	21.37

(a) Per 1,000 mean population (b) of children of less than one year per 1,000 live births.

BIRTHS

The number of births registered during 1959 totalled 20,372. The number of registrations during each of the last ten years has been a record, commencing with 17,306 in 1950.

A period of 42 days after birth is permitted for registration and the number of births registered in a year therefore differs from the number of births actually occurring during the year. The number of actual births occurring during 1959 is not yet available but in 1958 births registered totalled 20,047 while 19,844 births actually occurred during that year.

The masculinity ratio, i.e. the ratio of male births to female births, does not vary greatly from year to year. The 1959 figure of 102.77 was unusually low being the lowest recorded since 1936 when the ratio was 102.43.

Births - Occurring and Registered

Year	Births Occurring	Births Registered				
		Total	Male	Female	Rate (a)	Masculinity
1955	18,386	18,494	9,524	8,970	22.55	106.18
1956	19,359	18,964	9,708	9,256	22.35	104.88
1957	19,710	19,536	10,028	9,508	22.35	105.47
1958	19,844	20,047	10,181	9,866	22.35	103.19
1959	(b)	20,372	10,325	10,047	22.12	102.77

- (a) Per 1,000 mean population
- (b) Not yet available

MARRIAGES

The number of marriages solemnized during 1959 totalled 6,614, of which 726 were performed by Registration Officers. The record number of marriages in this State was 8,129 with a rate of 13.34 in 1942 and the lowest number in recent years was 5,321 with a rate of 8.48 in 1945.

The mean age at time of marriage of bachelors and spinsters decreased slightly in the immediate post-war years and then remained at a fairly stable level at approximately 26.7 years for bachelors and 23.7 years for spinsters until 1955. During the last four years there has been a definite downward trend in the average age at marriage of single persons.

Marriages - Number, Rate and Mean Age

Year	No.	Rate (a)	Mean Age at Marriage	
			Bachelors	Spinsters
1955	6,226	7.59	26.7	23.6
1956	6,277	7.39	26.6	23.3
1957	6,581	7.53	26.5	23.1
1958	6,505	7.25	26.3	22.9
1959	6,614	7.18	26.2	22.8

- (a) Per 1,000 mean population

DEATHS

A total of 7,943 deaths registered during 1959 represents a new record, the previous record being 7,743 in 1958. However the death rate continued to decrease slightly.

Infant deaths during 1959 totalled 422 and the infantile mortality rate was calculated to be 20.71. The lowest rate recorded in South Australia was 19.88 in 1956.

Deaths - Numbers and Rates

Year	Total Deaths Registered		Infant Deaths Registered					
			Under 1 Year		1 Month to 1 Year		Under 1 Month	
	No.	Rate (a)	No.	Rate (b)	No.	Rate (b)	No.	Rate (b)
1955	7,536	9.19	431	23.30	170	9.19	261	14.11
1956	7,593	8.95	377	19.88	118	6.22	259	13.66
1957	7,576	8.67	403	20.63	135	6.91	268	13.72
1958	7,743	8.63	449	22.39	170	8.48	279	13.91
1959	7,943	8.62	422	20.71	136	6.68	286	14.03

(a) Per 1,000 mean population

(b) Per 1,000 live births

INFANT DEATHS

The numbers of infants under 1 year of age dying from certain causes during the last five years are compared in the following table:-

Causes of Infant Deaths

Cause	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Diarrhoea	24	5	15	35	7
Congenital Malformations	81	71	92	85	72
Prematurity	90	99	76	74	69
Injury at birth	38	32	51	50	42
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy	82	77	82	83	107
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	-	1	-	1
Meningitis	4	5	8	5	6
Whooping Cough	2	2	-	1	-
Pneumonia	54	35	38	48	44
Hernia and Intestinal obstruction	5	2	4	3	2
External causes	18	7	9	18	19
All other causes	32	42	27	47	53
Total	431	377	403	449	422

D.L.J. Aitchison

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